

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5-13, and 15-17 are presently active in this case. Claims 3, 4, and 14 have been cancelled by way of the present amendment.

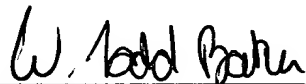
In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 3, 4, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,208,170 to Iwaki et al.

Claims 1, 5-13, and 15-17 were indicated as being allowable. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 3, 4, and 14 have been cancelled by way of this present amendment. Hence, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870
W. Todd Baker
Registration No. 45,265



22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
EHK:WTB/bwt

I:\ATTY\WTB\0039\210067US\210067US-AM 07 JAN 04.DOC